



# News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor

Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor

Mary Ann Saar  
Secretary

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**      **Contact: Mark Vernarelli 410-339-5065**  
**Maj. Priscilla Doggett (410) 585-3320**

## **Maryland Inmates Prepare Turkeys for a Baltimore Thanksgiving Tradition**

***Maryland Correctional Enterprises' inmate workforce to process  
800 Thanksgiving turkeys for the Bea Gaddy Foundation***

Hagerstown, MD (November 1, 2006) --- Maryland Correctional Enterprises, the prison industry arm of the Maryland Division of Correction, will prepare 800 turkeys for the Bea Gaddy Thanksgiving Dinner starting November 3rd, 2006 at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown. The turkeys, donated by Shady Brook Farms, **will arrive at 9:00 am on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and processing will begin on Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

The Bea Gaddy Thanksgiving Dinner started over 20 years ago out of Gaddy's own home and has grown to serve tens of thousands of homeless and poor on Thanksgiving Day in Baltimore. Maryland Correctional Enterprises' supervisors and inmate employees at the Meat Plant have volunteered their time and resources for over 15 years to see this tradition live on.

Maryland Correctional Enterprises continues to be one of the state's premier rehabilitative programs for Maryland's offender population. This past fiscal year alone, offenders in Maryland Correctional Enterprises' 31 business units received over 1.75 million hours of career training to improve their employment prospects upon release and reduce idleness in the prison setting.

The Meat Plant where the turkeys will be prepared currently employs approximately 80 male offenders and also offers a meat-cutting apprenticeship program in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Education. Experience at Maryland Correctional Enterprises, along with partnerships with local retailers in communities throughout Maryland, is key in offering ex-offenders employment opportunities and a chance at starting a new life.

---MORE---

**Note to Members Of the Media**

There are two story opportunities here. Reporters may cover the arrival of the truck, and the subsequent unloading (by inmates) of the 800 turkeys. However, this entire process should take only a few minutes.

Once unloaded and taken into the meat plant, the turkeys will be thawed during the weekend. The actual de-boning and processing work by the inmates will begin on **Monday, November 6, and members of the media are welcome to do a story on this. Be advised that the meat plant works early in the morning, so members of the media should plan to arrive there no later than 8 a.m.** Please call in advance and bring proper ID. No contraband, including cell phones, tobacco products, or weapons, are allowed inside prison property.

###



Maryland Correctional Enterprises  
410-540-5400 ~ [www.mce.md.gov](http://www.mce.md.gov)